

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

TRANSLATION
PCT

To:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PCT-2004-186

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015823

International filing date (day/month/year)

26.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

31.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

WATERWORKS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015823

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language

_____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under

Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐

a sequence listing

☐

table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐

in written format

☐

in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐

contained in the international application as filed.

☐

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐

furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015823

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-7	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP 7-81669 B2 (Yano Giken K.K.), 6 September 1995

Document 2: JP 10-255369 A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 25 September 1998, column 3, line 46 - column 4, line 1, figure 3

Document 3: Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the written application of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 203840/1985 (Laid-Open Utility Model No. 111735/1987), (Mikimoto K.K.), 16 July 1987, page 6, lines 7-12, figure 1

Document 4: JP 2657925 B2 (Rokubishi Rubber Co., Ltd.), 30 September 1997, figure 1

- o Claim 1
- o Documents 1-2

Document 1 describes a branching fluid passage covering device.

Since it is a publicly known technical means to provide a reversing prevention means for a link in a device using a link mechanism (for example, document 2, column 3, line 46 - column 4, line 1; figure 3), a party skilled in the art can easily conceive of providing reversing prevention means on the branching fluid passage covering device of document 1.

- o Claims 2-3
- o Documents 1-2

Specific structures of reversing prevention means are merely a matter of design choice in applying said known technology.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: Box V

- o Claims 4-6
- o Documents 1-3

Enlarging the diameter of the elastic cylindrical member in the middle of its axial length and forming an annular pressuring part in the pressuring plate are described in document 3 (page 6, lines 8-12; figure 1).

- o Claim 7
- o Documents 1-4

Since it is also a publicly known technology to make the inner peripheral surface of the large diameter middle section of an elastic annular member (for example, document 4, figure 1) into a partially spherical surface, it would be easy for a party skilled in the art as needed to make the inner peripheral surface of the elastic annular member a partially spherical shape same as the outer circumference in applying the technology described in document 3 to the branching fluid passage covering device of document 1.